

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-9 : (Canceled)

Claim 10 : (New) A finishing agent for producing artificial flowers from natural plants with keeping the natural states of the plants, the finishing agent which consists of a solvent containing:

- a) a lower alcohol of C1 - C3; and
- b) at least one of polyhydric alcohols in a weight ratio of 1 - 99 : 99 -1.

Claim 11 : (New) The finishing agent according to claim 10, wherein a polyhydric alcohol and a glycolether are used in combination as the b) component.

Claim 12 : (New) The finishing agent according to claim 11, wherein the glycolether is selected from the group consisting of diethyleneglycol monomethyl ether, triethyleneglycol monomethyl ether, diethyleneglycol monoethyl ether, triethyleneglycol monoethyl ether, diethyleneglycol monobutyl ether, triethyleneglycol monobutyl ether, polyethyleneglycol monoalkyl ether, dipropylene glycol monomethyl ether, polypropylene glycol monoalkyl ether and poly(oxyethylene - oxypropylene)glycol monoalkyl ether.

Claim 13 : (New) The finishing agent according to claim 10, wherein a dye is added and mixed.

Claim 14 : (New) The finishing agent according to claim 10, wherein an oxidation inhibitor is contained.

Claim 15 : (New) The finishing agent according to claim 11,
wherein the polyhydric alcohol is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, diethylene glycol, dipropylene glycol, butyldiglycol, glycerin, thiodiethylene glycol, monoethyl glycol, polyethylene glycol, polypropylene glycol, poly(oxyethylene - oxypropylene)glycol, ethyldiethylene glycol, polyoxypropylenetriol, and poly(oxyethylene - oxypropylene)triol.

Claim 16 : (New) A process for producing artificial flowers,
wherein flowers or leaves of plants are dipped directly in a finishing agent consisting of a solvent containing a lower alcohol of C1 - C3 and at least one of polyhydric alcohols in a weight ratio of 1 - 99 : 99 - 1 and then they are dried, to be prepared to artificial flowers or leaves which can be preserved for a long time with keeping their natural states.

Claim 17 : (New) A process for producing artificial flowers,
wherein water in plants is substituted with a water-soluble and volatile organic solvent having a specific gravity smaller than water (A solution) and then, the organic solvent is substituted with a polyoxyethylene derivative solution (B solution), to prepare the fresh flowers of the plants to artificial flowers which can be preserved for a long time; and a finishing agent consisting of a solvent containing a lower alcohol of C1 - C3 and at least one of polyhydric alcohols in a weight ratio of 1 - 99 : 99 - 1 is applied to at least a part of the surfaces of the fresh flowers treated with the polyoxyethylene derivative.